

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary
of the Standing Stone Monument dedication.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the elected members of this General Assembly to recognize the history of this great state and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1893, a patriotic fraternity known as the Order of Red Men Narragansett #25, mounted part of a stone on a pedestal in Monterey; and

WHEREAS, the stone was part of a large dog-shaped monolith found by settlers and hunters traveling westward over an ancient Indian trail across what is now Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the pioneers learned from the Indians that the monolith sitting majestically on the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau had not been carved by people then living; and

WHEREAS, the Indians believed the Great Spirit had given them the magnificent image, and so they treated it with great reverence, frequently conducting religious ceremonies near the stone; and

WHEREAS, until 1805 the large “dog” had been a boundary marker for the Indian Treaty of 1875, which had given the Cherokee Indians the land east of a line running through the monolith; and

WHEREAS, vandalism and souvenir hunters reduced the multi-ton structure from its original height of 14 feet to a deformed stone base of about four feet; the arrival of the railroad in the early 1890s ensured the obliteration of the image as dynamite reduced the once proud figure to lesser chunks of sandstone; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts and foresight of the Narragansett Tribe and many area residents, the sixteen feet high monument was erected and capped with an eight hundred

pound rock, the last known remaining fragment of the dog-like sphinx. On October 17, 1895 the monument was dedicated with a crowd of about three thousand people in attendance; and

WHEREAS, credit for the preservation of the monument and its significance to Tennessee goes to Nannie Ellen Buckner, whose parents and grandparents were present at the dedication the year before her birth. The stories told to her by her parents had a lasting impression upon Nannie Ellen, who frequently took her children to the monument, teaching to them the importance of their Indian heritage; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, the state named Standing Stone State Park in honor of the monolith and the people who worshipped it; and

WHEREAS, after her death in 1971, Nannie Ellen's son, Dr. O.P. Walker did extensive research into the monument's history, passing his findings on to the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, who in 1979 began a tradition of returning to their ancient worship grounds; and

WHEREAS, each year on the second Saturday of October, a corn wreath is placed with ceremony at the base of the Standing Stone Pedestal, with festivities to honor the Indians and their heritage; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the people of this state continue to celebrate and learn more about our rich heritage and its tradition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Standing Stone Monument dedication, paying special tribute to those inimitable Tennesseans who have endeavored to preserve its legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Walker and the City of Monterey with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.